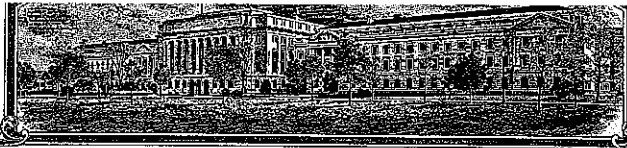


No.

9900314



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

*Syngenta Seeds, Inc.*

Whereas, THERE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE

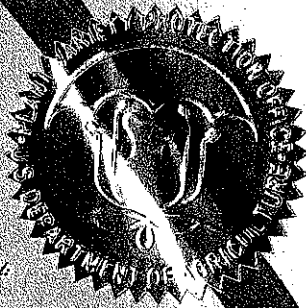
Secretary of Agriculture

AN APPLICATION REQUESTING A CERTIFICATE OF PROTECTION FOR AN ALLEGED DISTINCT VARIETY OF SEXUALLY REPRODUCED, OR TUBER PROPAGATED PLANT, THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE APPLICATION AND EXHIBITS, A COPY OF WHICH IS HEREUNTO ANNEXED AND MADE A PART HEREOF, AND THE VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS OF LAW IN SUCH CASES MADE AND PROVIDED HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH, AND THE TITLE THERETO IS, FROM THE RECORDS OF THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE, IN THE APPLICANT(S) INDICATED IN THE SAID COPY, AND WHEREAS, UPON DUE EXAMINATION MADE, THE SAID APPLICANT(S) IS (ARE) ADJUDGED TO BE ENTITLED TO A CERTIFICATE OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS CERTIFICATE OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION IS TO GRANT UNTO THE SAID APPLICANT(S) AND THE SUCCESSORS, HEIRS OR ASSIGNS OF THE SAID APPLICANT(S) FOR THE TERM OF TWENTY YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS GRANT, SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF THE REQUIRED FEES AND PERIODIC REPLENISHMENT OF VIABLE BASIC SEED OF THE VARIETY IN A PUBLIC REPOSITORY AS PROVIDED BY LAW, THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE OTHERS FROM SELLING THE VARIETY, OR OFFERING IT FOR SALE, OR REPRODUCING IT, OR IMPORTING IT, OR EXPORTING IT, OR CONDITIONING IT FOR PROPAGATION, OR STOCKING IT FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE PURPOSE, OR USING IT IN PRODUCING A HYBRID OR DIFFERENT VARIETY THEREFROM, TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION ACT. (84 STAT. 1542, AS AMENDED, 7 U.S.C. 2321 ET SEQ.)

SOYBEAN

'S24-L2'



*In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Plant Variety Protection Office to be affixed at the City of Washington, D.C. this nineteenth day of July, in the year two thousand two.*

*Attest:*

*Pat M. Jaki*

Commissioner  
Plant Variety Protection Office  
Agricultural Marketing Service

*Arthur C. Freeman*

Secretary of Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION - PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE

## APPLICATION FOR PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE

(Instructions and information collection burden statement on reverse)

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995.

Application is required in order to determine if a plant variety protection certificate is to be issued (7 U.S.C. 2421). Information is held confidential until certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2426).

1. NAME OF APPLICANT(S) (as it is to appear on the Certificate)		2. TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OR EXPERIMENTAL NUMBER	3. VARIETY NAME
(BT:4/11/02) Syngenta Novartis Seeds, Inc.		X9824, M388505	S24-L2
4. ADDRESS (Street and No., or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code, and Country)		5. TELEPHONE (include area code)	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PVPO NUMBER 9900314
P.O. Box 959 Minneapolis, MN 55440		612-593-7333	
6. FAX (include area code)		7. GENUS AND SPECIES NAME	FILING DATE 5-21-99 FILING AND EXAMINATION FEE: \$ 2450.00 DATE 5-21-99 CERTIFICATION FEE: \$ 320.00 DATE 6/14/02
612-593-7801		8. FAMILY NAME (Botanical)	
Glycine max		Leguminosae	
9. CROP KIND NAME (Common name)			
Soybean		10. IF THE APPLICANT NAMED IS NOT A "PERSON", GIVE FORM OF ORGANIZATION (corporation, partnership, association, etc.) (Common name)	
Corporation		11. IF INCORPORATED, GIVE STATE OF INCORPORATION	
Delaware		12. DATE OF INCORPORATION	
1976		13. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT REPRESENTATIVE(S), IF ANY, TO SERVE IN THIS APPLICATION AND RECEIVE ALL PAPERS	14. TELEPHONE (include area code)
John C. Thorne (BT:4/14/02) Syngenta Novartis Seeds, Inc. P.O. Box 949 Washington, Iowa 52353			319-653-2181
		15. FAX (include area code)	319-653-4609
16. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX FOR EACH ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED (Follow instructions on reverse)			
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit A. Origin and Breeding History of the Variety b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit B. Statement of Distinctness c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit C. Objective Description of the Variety d. <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit D. Additional Description of the Variety (Optional) e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit E. Statement of the Basis of the Applicant's Ownership f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voucher Sample (2,600 viable untreated seeds or, for tuber propagated varieties verification that tissue culture will be deposited and maintained in an approved public repository) g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filing and Examination Fee (\$2,450), made payable to "Treasurer of the United States" (Mail to PVPO)			
17. DOES THE APPLICANT SPECIFY THAT SEED OF THIS VARIETY BE SOLD BY VARIETY NAME ONLY, AS A CLASS OF CERTIFIED SEED? (See Section 83(a) of the Plant Variety Protection Act)			
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If "yes," answer items 18 and 19 below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (If "no," go to item 20)			
18. DOES THE APPLICANT SPECIFY THAT SEED OF THIS VARIETY BE LIMITED AS TO NUMBER OF GENERATIONS?		19. IF "YES" TO ITEM 18, WHICH CLASSES OF PRODUCTION BEYOND BREEDER SEED?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> FOUNDATION <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED	
20. HAS THE VARIETY OR A HYBRID PRODUCED FROM THE VARIETY BEEN RELEASED, USED, OFFERED FOR SALE, OR MARKETED IN THE U.S. OR OTHER COUNTRIES?			
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If "yes," give names of countries and dates) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
21. The applicant(s) declare that a viable sample of basic seed of the variety will be furnished with application and will be replenished upon request in accordance with such regulations as may be applicable, or for a tuber propagated variety a tissue culture will be deposited in a public repository and maintained for the duration of the certificate.			
The undersigned applicant(s) is(are) the owner(s) of this sexually reproduced or tuber propagated plant variety, and believe(s) that the variety is new, distinct, uniform, and stable as required in Section 42, and is entitled to protection under the provisions of Section 42 of the Plant Variety Protection Act.			
Applicant(s) is(are) informed that false representation herein can jeopardize protection and result in penalties.			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (Owner(s))		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (Owner(s))	
(Signature of John C. Thorne)			
NAME (Please print or type)		NAME (Please print or type)	
John C. Thorne			
CAPACITY OR TITLE	DATE	CAPACITY OR TITLE	DATE
Director, Soybean Breeding	05-05-99		

## EXHIBIT A

## Origin and Breeding History of S24-L2

In the summer of 1990 the <sup>Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02)</sup> ~~Novartis~~ <sup>Currently Syngenta</sup> Seeds, Inc. (formerly Northrup King Co.) breeding group at Washington, IA made the cross between an experimental line W508458 x 'S 19-90' from which the variety S24-L2 is derived. S 19-90 is a commercial cultivar marketed by <sup>Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02)</sup> ~~Novartis~~ Seeds, Inc. W508458 was derived from the cross B242 x S2596, both of which were commercial cultivars marketed by ~~Novartis~~ <sup>Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02)</sup> Seeds, Inc.

The F1 and F2 generations were grown at the <sup>(Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02))</sup> ~~Novartis~~ Seeds, Inc., Research Center near Kekaha, Kauai, HI in the winter of 1990-91. The F3 generation was grown at Washington in the summer of 1991; the F4 and F5 in Kekaha in the winter of 1991-92, and the F6 at Washington in the summer of 1992. The F2 through F5 generations were advanced using a modified system of single seed descent. Single F6 plants were harvested in the fall of 1992 and threshed individually. The progeny from these plants were yield tested in a preliminary yield trial in the summer of 1993. One of these, designated M388505, was chosen for advancement. M388505 was tested in extensive replicated trials in southern Ontario and the northern United States from 1994 through 1998 and found to perform well compared to other mid Maturity Group 2 varieties. It was tested in the greenhouse at the <sup>(Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02))</sup> ~~Novartis~~ Seeds, Inc. Research Center at Bay, AR, for resistance to *Phytophthora sojae* and found to have the Rps1-c gene for resistance. It was tested in the field for tolerance to white mold caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and found to be tolerant. It was also found to have purple flowers, tawny pubescence, tan pod walls, and seed with yellow seed coats and brown hila (may contain up to 2% other hilum color). During 1998 it was tested under the experimental designation X9824, and based on its yield superiority and disease resistance, it was released in 1999 as S24-L2.

During the winter of 1995-96, 500 seeds of S24-L2 were planted in Kekaha. This increase was rogued for flower, pubescence, and pod color, and 200 single plants were harvested and threshed individually. The seed from each plant was confirmed to have brown hila, and the progeny planted at Washington as progeny rows in the summer of 1996. This increase was rogued carefully at flowering and maturity, and any rows with off-type plants were removed. Uniform rows conforming to the variety description were then bulk harvested to produce Pre-breeder seed. The seed was planted near Washington in 1997 to produce Breeder Seed. This increase was rogued carefully at flowering and maturity and found to be uniform.

Foundation seed of S24-L2 was produced by <sup>(Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02))</sup> ~~Novartis~~ Seeds, Inc. in the summer of 1998 and found to meet <sup>(Currently Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (BT: 4/11/02))</sup> ~~Novartis~~ Seeds, Inc. standards for Foundation Seed. Fields were also inspected by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

S24-L2 is uniform and stable within a purity level of 99% (98% for hilum color). During the five years of testing and three years of seed increase, we have observed no variants. Any off-type plants removed from increase fields were assumed to have arisen from admixture or out-crossing. Varietal purity will be maintained using progeny rows as needed for the life of the variety.

**Statement of Distinctness for the Variety S24-L2**

Soybean variety S24-L2 is most like the variety S 24-92. It can be differentiated from S 24-92 on the basis of hilum color and resistance to *Phytophthora sojae*. S24-L2 has brown hilum color and the Rps1-c gene for resistance to *Phytophthora* while S 24-92 is susceptible to *Phytophthora* and has black hilum color.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
LIVESTOCK, MEAT, GRAIN & SEED DIVISION  
PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE  
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20705

EXHIBIT C  
(Soybean)

OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY  
SOYBEAN (*Glycine max* L.)

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) (BT:4/11/02) Syngenta <del>Novartis</del> Seeds, Inc.	TEMPORARY DESIGNATION X9824, M388505 (BT:5/06/2002)	VARIETY NAME S24-L2
ADDRESS (Street and No., or R.F.D. No., City, State, and Zip Code) Attn: John Thorne 510 N 12th Avenue Washington, Iowa 52353		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PVPO NUMBER 9900314 (BT:5/6/2002)

Choose the appropriate response which characterizes the variety in the features described below. When the number of significant digits in your answer is fewer than the number of boxes provided, place a zero in the first box when number is 9 or less (e.g., ).

## 1. SEED SHAPE:



1 = Spherical (L/W, L/T, and T/W ratios = < 1.2)  
3 = Elongate (L/T ratio > 1.2; T/W = < 1.2)

2 = Spherical Flattened (L/W ratio > 1.2; L/T ratio = < 1.2)  
4 = Elongate Flattened (L/T ratio > 1.2; T/W > 1.2)

## 2. SEED COAT COLOR: (Mature Seed)

1 = Yellow

2 = Green

3 = Brown

4 = Black

5 = Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. SEED COAT LUSTER: (Mature Hand Shelled Seed)

1 = Dull ('Corsoy 79'; 'Braxton')

Intermediate  
2 = Shiny ('Nebsoy'; 'Gasoy 17')

## 4. SEED SIZE: (Mature Seed)

Grams per 100 seeds

## 5. HILUM COLOR: (Mature Seed)

1 = Buff

2 = Yellow

3 = Brown

4 = Gray

5 = Imperfect Black

6 = Black

7 = Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. COTYLEDON COLOR: (Mature Seed)

1 = Yellow

2 = Green

## 7. SEED PROTEIN PEROXIDASE ACTIVITY:

1 = Low

2 = High

## 8. SEED PROTEIN ELECTROPHORETIC BAND:

1 = Type A (SP<sup>1a</sup>)2 = Type B (SP<sup>1b</sup>)

## 9. HYPOCOTYL COLOR:

1 = Green only ('Evans'; 'Davis')

2 = Green with bronze band below cotyledons ('Woodworth'; 'Tracy')

3 = Light Purple below cotyledons ('Beeson'; 'Pickett 71')

4 = Dark Purple extending to unifoliate leaves ('Hodgson'; 'Coker Hampton 266A')

## 10. LEAFLET SHAPE:

1 = Lanceolate

2 = Oval

3 = Ovate

4 = Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. LEAFLET SIZE:

☐ 21 = Small ('Amsoy 71'; 'A5312')  
3 = Large ('Crawford'; 'Tracy')

2 = Medium ('Corsoy 79'; 'Gasoy 17')

## 12. LEAF COLOR:

☐ 21 = Light Green ('Weber'; 'York')  
3 = Dark Green ('Gnome'; 'Tracy')

2 = Medium Green ('Corsoy 79'; 'Braxton')

## 13. FLOWER COLOR:

☐ 2

1 = White

2 = Purple

3 = White with purple throat

## 14. POD COLOR:

☐ 1

1 = Tan

2 = Brown

3 = Black

## 15. PLANT PUBESCENCE COLOR:

☐ 2

1 = Gray

2 = Brown (Tawny)

## 16. PLANT TYPES:

☐ 21 = Slender ('Essex'; 'Amsoy 71')  
3 = Bushy ('Gnome'; 'Govan')

2 = Intermediate ('Amcor'; 'Braxton')

## 17. PLANT HABIT:

☐ 3

1 = Determinate ('Gnome'; 'Braxton')

2 = Semi-Determinate ('Will')

3 = Indeterminate ('Nebsoy'; 'Improved Pelican')

## 18. MATURITY GROUP:

☐ 5

1 = 000

2 = 00

3 = 0

4 = I

5 = II

6 = III

7 = IV

8 = V

9 = VI

10 = VII

11 = VIII

12 = IX

13 = X

## 19. DISEASE REACTION: (Enter 0 = Not Tested; 1 = Susceptible; 2 = Resistant)

## BACTERIAL DISEASES:

☐Bacterial Pustule (*Xanthomonas phaseoli* var. *sojensis*)☐Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas glycinea*)☐Wildfire (*Pseudomonas tabaci*)

## FUNGAL DISEASES:

☐ 1Brown Spot (*Septoria glycines*)Frogeye Leaf Spot (*Cercospora sojae*)☐

Race 1

☐

Race 2

☐

Race 3

☐

Race 4

☐

Race 5

☐

Other (Specify)

☐Target Spot (*Corynespora cassicola*)☐Downy Mildew (*Peronospora trifoliorum* var. *manshurica*)☐Powdery Mildew (*Microsphaera diffusa*)☐ 1Brown Stem Rot (*Cephalosporium gregatum*)

Intermediate Tolerance

☐Stem Canker (*Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *caulivora*)

## 19. DISEASE REACTION: (Enter 0 = Not Tested; 1 = Susceptible; 2 = Resistant) (Continued)

## FUNGAL DISEASES: (Continued)

☐ Pod and Stem Blight (*Diaporthe phaseolorum* var; *sojae*)  
☐ Purple Seed Stain (*Cercospora kikuchii*)  
☐ Rhizoctonia Root Rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)  
 Phytophthora Rot (*Phytophthora megasperma* var. *sojae*)  
☒ Race 1    ☒ Race 2    ☒ Race 3    ☒ Race 4    ☐ Race 5    ☐ Race 6    ☒ Race 7  
☐ Race 8    ☐ Race 9    ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## VIRAL DISEASES:

☐ Bud Blight (Tobacco Ringspot Virus)  
☐ Yellow Mosaic (Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus)  
☐ Cowpea Mosaic (Cowpea Chlorotic Virus)  
☐ Pod Mottle (Bean Pod Mottle Virus)  
☐ Seed Mottle (Soybean Mosaic Virus)

## NEMATODE DISEASES:

Soybean Cyst Nematode (*Heterodera glycines*)  
☒ Race 1    ☒ Race 2    ☒ Race 3    ☒ Race 4    ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Lance Nematode (*Hoplolaimus Colombus*)  
☐ Southern Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*)  
☐ Northern Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne Hapla*)  
☐ Peanut Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne arenaria*)  
☐ Reniform Nematode (*Rotylenchulus reniformis*)  
☐ OTHER DISEASE NOT ON FORM (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## 20. PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES: (Enter 0 = Not Tested; 1 = Susceptible; 2 = Resistant)

☒ Iron Chlorosis on Calcareous Soil  
☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 21. INSECT REACTION: (Enter 0 = Not Tested; 1 = Susceptible; 2 = Resistant)

☐ Mexican Bean Beetle (*Epilachna varivestis*)  
☐ Potato Leaf Hopper (*Empoasca fabae*)  
☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 22. INDICATE WHICH VARIETY MOST CLOSELY RESEMBLES THAT SUBMITTED.

CHARACTER	NAME OF VARIETY	CHARACTER	NAME OF VARIETY
Plant Shape	S24-92	Seed Coat Luster	S19-90
Leaf Shape	S24-92	Seed Size	S24-12
Leaf Color	S19-90	Seed Shape	S19-90
Leaf Size	S24-92	Seedling Pigmentation	S24-12

## 23. GIVE DATA FOR SUBMITTED AND SIMILAR STANDARD VARIETY: Paired Comparison Data

VARIETY	NO. OF DAYS MATURITY	PLANT LODGING SCORE	CM PLANT HEIGHT	LEAFLET SIZE		SEED CONTENT		SEED SIZE G/100 SEEDS	NO. SEEDS/POD
				CM Width	CM Length	% Protein	% Oil		
Submitted	263	2.7	79	6	10	42.0	20.8	18.9	
S24-92 Name of Similar Variety	262	2.7	79	6	10	42.2	20.8	15.2	

## PUBLICATIONS USEFUL AS REFERENCE AIDS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM:

1. Caldwell, B.E., ed. 1973. Soybeans: Improvement, Production, and Uses. Amer. Soc. Agron. Monograph No. 16.
2. Buttery, B.R. and H.I. Buzzell. 1968. Peroxidase activity in seeds of soybean varieties. Crop Sci., 8: 722-725.
3. Hymowitz, T. 1973. Electrophoretic analysis of SBTI-A<sub>2</sub> in the USDA soybean germplasm collection. Crop Sci., 13: 420-421.
4. Payne, R.C. and L.F. Morris. 1976. Differentiation of soybean cultivars by seedling pigmentation patterns. J. Seed Technol. 1: 1-19.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION - PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE

EXHIBIT E  
STATEMENT OF THE BASIS OF OWNERSHIP

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995.

Application is required in order to determine if a plant variety protection certificate is to be issued (7 U.S.C. 2421). Information is held confidential until certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2426).

1. NAME OF APPLICANT(S)

2. TEMPORARY DESIGNATION  
OR EXPERIMENTAL NUMBER

3. VARIETY NAME

(BT: 4/14/98) Syngenta  
Novartis Seeds, Inc.

X9824, M388505  
(BT: 5/02/2002)

S24-L2

4. ADDRESS (Street and No., or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code, and Country)

5. TELEPHONE (include area code)

6. FAX (include area code)

P.O. Box 959  
Minneapolis, MN 55440

612-593-7333

612-593-7801

7. PVP NUMBER

9900314 (BT: 5/02/2002)

8. Does the applicant own all rights to the variety? Mark an "X" in appropriate block. If no, please explain.

☒ YES☐ NO

9. Is the applicant (individual or company) a U.S. national or U.S. based company?

If no, give name of country

☒ YES☐ NO

10. Is the applicant the original breeder? If no, please answer the following:

☒ YES☐ NO

a. If original rights to variety were owned by individual(s):

Is (are) the original breeder(s) a U.S. national(s)? If no, give name of country

☐ YES☐ NO

b. If original rights to variety were owned by a company:

Is the original breeder(s) U.S. based company? If no, give name of country

11. Additional explanation on ownership (If needed, use reverse for extra space):

## PLEASE NOTE:

Plant variety protection can be afforded only to owners (not licensees) who meet one of the following criteria:

1. If the rights to the variety are owned by the original breeder, that person must be a U.S. national, national of a UPOV member country, or national of a country which affords similar protection to nationals of the U.S. for the same genus and species.
2. If the rights to the variety are owned by the company which employed the original breeder(s), the company must be U.S. based, owned by nationals of a UPOV member country, or owned by nationals of a country which affords similar protection to nationals of the U.S. for the same genus and species.
3. If the applicant is an owner who is not the original breeder, both the original breeder and the applicant must meet one of the above criteria.

The original breeder may be the individual or company who directed final breeding. See Section 41(a)(2) of the Plant Variety Protection Act for definition.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, AG Box 7630, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. When replying, refer to OMB No. 0581-0055 and form number in your letter.

Under the PRA of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.